At the present time, EPA regulations prevent the needed tests of dispersants on large quantities of oil. Those regulations need to be changed so that we can find out when, if ever, dispersants should be used.

In summary, a national decision needs to be made first as to whether or not the implementation of total spill clean-up systems should take place. We know enough about the five crucial items needed for total spill cleanup to be able to provide effective systems. Research is presently taking place on ways to improve these systems. If they are to be provided, this research should definitely continue. If the decision should be to save the money and accept the risk, there would be little sense in continuing the research. Without the stimulation of the actual implementation of the systems, the most capable people in the field will probably leave. More research of dispersants is needed, including field trials with large amounts of oil. As a result of these tests, a realistic approach to dispersants, different from that of the EPA and the oil industries, could be developed.

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